

January 2022

The Official Newsletter of the Greene County Chamber of Commerce

Phone: (724) 627-5926 Email: info@greenechamber.org www.greenechamber.org





2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

21
NEW
MEMBERS

349 TOTAL

MEMBERS

120
YEARS SERVING
GREENE
COUNTY



8,200+
WEBSITE VIEWS



CHAMBER EVENTS HELD:

3,383
FACEBOOK



783 NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBRERS



303
INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS



- Networking Luncheons
- Administrative Professional's Day Packages
- Annual Golf Outing
- 31st Annual Scholarship Presentation
- 4th Women in Business Breakfast
- 33rd Annual Banquet & Presentation of the Distinguished Service Award & McCracken Legacy Award
- 86th Annual Christmas Parade



EMAIL NOW info@greenechamber.org







JOIN NOW www.greenechamber.org

VISIT US 3157 Mt. Morris Rd. Waynesburg, PA 15370



Welcome New Members



Washington Wild Things

Kyle Dawson

1 Washington Federal Way

Washington, PA 15301

724-250-9555

kdawson@washingtonwildthings.com

washingtonwildthings.com

New Representative



Rolling Meadows Nursing & Rehabilitation Rich Walters - Administrator 107 Curry Road Waynesburg, Pa 15370 (724) 627-3153



Kinetic by Windstream

Shawna Cossin - Regional Field

Marketing Operations Consultant
1925 Enterprise Parkway

Twinsburg, Ohio 44087

(330) 212-0915

Could first responders reach you if there was an emergency at your business tonight?

The Greene County Department of Emergency Services has asked the chamber to partner with them again in 2022 to help build their emergency contact database. In case of an after-hours emergency, they need to reach you or a designated contact of your business. This information is kept confidential and will only be used in case of an emergency. Please complete and return this form to help them help you should the need arise. If you completed a form in the past, has your information changed? Take a moment to possibly save your business.

Form Download: PDF Version
Send completed forms to:
rpolicz@co.greene.pa.us
or by mail to
Greene County Department of
Emergency Services
55 West Greene Street,
Waynesburg, PA 15370.



COUNTY OF GREENE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

55 West Greene Street • Waynesburg, Pennsylvania 15370
PHONE: 724-627-5387 • EMERGENCY: 724-627-4911 • FAX: 724-627-5342
www.co.greene.pa.us

January 5, 2022

To: All Greene County Businesses

From: Greene County Department of Emergency Services

We are in the process of creating a business contact database that pertains to emergency contact information. We would appreciate it if you would fill out the enclosed form and send this information back to us. Please feel free to add any additional information when needed. Thank you in advance for your time in completing this form. This information will be used in the Greene County EMA Office and 911 Center only.

This information will not be given to the public and will only be used when there is an incident or situation involving your business.

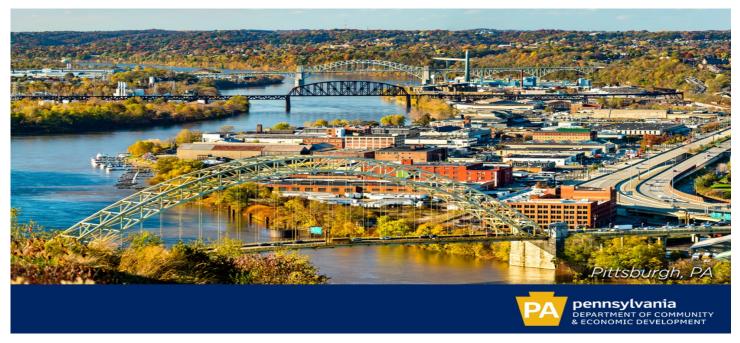
Business Name:	
111	
Address:	
P	
Email:	
Phone Number:	
Fax Number:	
Business Owner:	
After hour Contact (Emergencies Only): Please place in the order in which you would like to be called.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
If you have an alarm system at your business, please provide the company name and phone number below.	
Please return completed form to: Greene County Department of Emergency Services 55 West Greene Street Waynesburg, PA. 15370 Or email the completed form to: rpolicz@co.greene.pa.us	



CORNERSTONE OF THE KEYSTONE STATE

Mike Belding, Chairman • Betsy McClure, Commissioner • Blair Zimmerman, Commissioner





ARC Federal Funding Opportunities

Join the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED), our Local Development Districts (LDD), the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), and former grantees for a virtual workshop covering the ARC federal funding opportunities in Pennsylvania.

If your organization serves one of PA's 52 Appalachian Counties, we invite you to join us and other experts on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 from 1:00 - 2:30PM, to learn about developing partnerships, hear from previous grantees about their program journeys, and how to create strong applications for the following ARC programs:

Area Development Program

INvestments Supporting Partnerships in Recovery Ecosystems (INSPIRE)

Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER)

Pennsylvania non-profit organizations, educational and medical institutions, local governments, and Local Development Districts are encouraged to join. Share this event with your colleagues or any other organizations that may benefit from this information session.

REGISTER HERE







OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday from 10am-2pm Mondays & Fridays are by appointment Take advantage of our

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BANNER ADS - \$50/MONTH

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ANNOUNCEMENTS - FREE

100 word text-only item to
run for one month



MONTHLY eNEWSLETTER

SPONSOR - \$100/MONTH

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MONTHLY BUSINESS CARD ADS - \$40

Used in the body of the newsletter

ANNUAL BUSINESS CARD ADS - \$325

Copy can change monthly if desired

FULL PG FLYER INSERTS - \$65/MONTH

Placed in the newsletter



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are a member

ANNUAL ADVERTISING - \$500 QUARTERLY ADVERTISING - \$150



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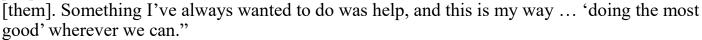




Members in the Spotlight

The Greene County Salvation Army welcomes its new director, Bonnie Davis, as they plan for the 2021 winter season. Bonnie, a native Greene County resident, worked with the county a few months back, with community development and elections. She is a married mother of three and applied for the director position hoping for an opportunity to give back to the community she has long been a part of.

"It's my home," Bonnie says. "It's family, friends, people I've never met in my life, but I can relate to



Bonnie stresses the impact that the Salvation Army has on communities, which helps inspire her motivation to serve. She refers to the tiny corner the building is located on and how it is "hidden away" on Blackberry Alley and W 1st St. on the edge of South Fork Tenmile Creek. The social services and community programs that the Salvation Army provides, according to Bonnie, are incredibly helpful.

"I've been in situations where I've needed help, and [it] was there for me over 20 years ago. I've prayed on it, and I want to give back. I really do, and I love it."

Services that the Salvation Army provides include emergency food boxes, the "Birthday Club" for children up to age 12 to pick out a gift, "Mommy" or "Daddy" gift baskets with infant care supplies, Dollar Energy Fund assistance with mortgage/rent and utility costs and of course the warehouse which is open for people to take around 10-20 items per week.

"We're here, and we are doing the best we can to help," Bonnie exclaimed. "Reach out to us!"

Anybody in need of help or assistance can contact the Salvation Army by either calling them at (724) 852-1479, emailing bonniej.davis@use.salvationarmy.org, or reaching out on Facebook Messenger. Visit facebook.com/greenesalvationarmy to stay up to date with future events orvolunteer opportunities. There is a constant need for volunteers, and the mission of the Salvation Army stays alive if people are there to help.

By: Lachlan Loudon; from the Greene Scene Magazine



Three Ways to Leverage Technology in Employee Benefit Administration

Technology continues to permeate many aspects of today's workplace and the area of benefit administration is no exception.

Digital platforms provide tools that are intuitive, intelligent and accessible 24/7, enabling employees to easily access and use

their benefits from anywhere. Chatbots, as an example, are becoming much more commonly utilized as an HR tool. It is not uncommon today for an employee to strike up a conversation with one of these Al-based systems when seeking answers from a carrier regarding their benefits.

Here are a few other ways you can utilize technology to enhance employee benefit administration:

Digitizing to Improve Efficiencies

Conversion of data from paper-based records to a digital format can drastically improve access to benefits, allowing a more efficient transfer of data between the company, carriers, payroll company and other vendors.

Streamlining the Benefits Experience

Through benefit administration platforms, employees can access benefit data and process enrollment and eligibility actions from anywhere, anytime. As an added bonus, by streamlining the employee benefit experience, companies can ease the burden on their HR staff, saving them valuable time and money.

More Easily Maintain Compliance

With the amount of data involved in benefit administration today, along with the fluidity of compliance rules and regulations, it's easy to make mistakes and fall out of compliance. Through digital platforms, not only is data more easily and accurately maintained, but many vendors include compliance resources to assist a business owner or HR staff in compliance issues.

The Greene County Chamber of Commerce offers its members access to My Benefit Advisor as a solution for employee benefits, including voluntary offerings. For more information about My Benefit Advisor, visit our website at greene.mybenefitadvisor.com or contact Mike Galardini at (800) 377-3539.



Build your leadership and advocacy skills to increase investment in STEM education as a Pennsylvania STEM Ambassador.

Deadline to Apply: Jan. 21, 2022

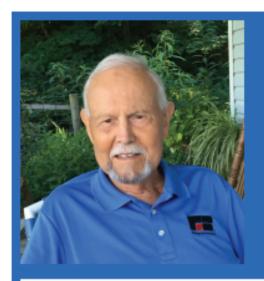
Pennsylvania's response to the challenges of the 21st century will be determined by opportunities put forth in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education and information technology. The Pennsylvania STEM Ambassador program trains interested and experienced individuals to proactively engage with state agencies, policymakers, business/industry leaders, education entities and/or community providers to share data, experiences, networks and policy needs.

During this 10-month program, you will:

- Learn from and network with local, state and national leaders and STEM experts
- Develop excellent leadership and public speaking skills
- Expand your professional network
- Receive a free registration to the 2022 EMPOWER conference
 Previous STEM Ambassadors include teachers, curriculum supervisors, principals, STEM program administrators, nonprofit organization executives and higher education representatives.

STEM Ambassadors supported successful advocacy efforts totaling \$70 million over two years in the state STEM/workforce investment program known as PAsmart.

Apply at: PSAYDN



BLOOD DRIVE

IN HONOR OF

AL DEYNZER

SPONSORED BY
THE GREENE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Al Deynzer was one of the original members of the Greene County Farm Bureau and was instrumental in making the organization what it is today. Over the years, he served as Government Relations Director, President, and Membership Chair. With his engaging personality and dedication to the rural community, Al was able to greatly increase membership in GCFB. He was also actively involved in his church, St. George's Episcopal Church in Waynesburg. Al is sadly missed by the local community and the Greene County Farm Bureau family.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH 9 AM TO 2 PM

GREENE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS 4-H BUILDING 10 MEETING ROOM 107 FAIRGROUNDS ROAD WAYNESBURG, PA 15370

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- Visit vitalant.org and click the "Log In" button. On the new window, choose Donor Login (previous donor) or New Donor (haven't donated with Vitalant before), and search with group code C5300102, or
- Call 412.209.7000

APPOINTMENTS RECOMMENDED





FREE Safety Webinars January 2022

The Bureau of Workers' Compensation Health & Safety Division will be offering the following FREE safety webinars in January, 2022:

General Safety

Warehouse Safety on Wednesday, January 12th at 9:30am Safety is a Personal Decision on Wednesday, January 12th at 1:30pm Machine Guarding on Thursday, January 13th at 1:30pm Scaffolds on Friday, January 14th at 1:30pm Housekeeping Safety on Tuesday, January 18th at 9:30am Lock Out / Tag Out on Tuesday, January 18th at 1:30pm Safety & Health Programs on Wednesday, January 19th at 1:30pm Ladder Safety on Thursday, January 20th at 9:30am Snow Shoveling Safety on Thursday, January 20th at 1:30pm Right to Know Inspections on Friday, January 21st at 1:30pm Walking & Working Surfaces on Monday, January 24th at 9:30am Bloodborne Pathogens on Tuesday, January 25th at 9:30am Hazardous Materials Awareness on Wednesday, January 26th at 9:30am Groundskeeping Safety on Wednesday, January 26 at 1:30pm Occupational Skin Diseases on Thursday, January 27th at 9:30am Confined Space - General Industry on Thursday, January 27th at 1:30pm Theatre Safety on Friday, January 28th at 1:30pm Safe Driving in Inclement Weather on Monday, January 31st at 9:30am

Webinar duration is approximately 1 hour depending on course material as well as viewer participation.

To register for any of these events just click on the link to the Calendar and you will be automatically re-directed to the event calendar and can choose the webinar that you are interested in.

*Remember, registration closes the day before the presentation is scheduled to begin.



FREE Safety Webinars January 2022

Safety Shorts

Active Shooter Awareness on Wednesday, January 12th at 11:00am Snow Blower Safety on Thursday, January 13th at 11:00am Eye & Face Protection on Tuesday, January 18th at 11:00am Workplace Violence on Wednesday, January 19th at 11:00am Job Safety / Hazard Analysis on Thursday, January 20th at 11:00am Near Miss on Tuesday, January 25th at 11:00am Home Fire Safety on Wednesday, January 26 at 11:00am

Webinar duration is approximately 1/2 hour depending on course material as well as viewer participation.

Annual Workplace Safety Committee - Initial & Re-Certification Training

Re-Certification Training on Wednesday, January 19th from 9:30am - 10:45am

Initial Training on Thursday, January 13th from 9:30am - 11:00am Initial Training on Tuesday, January, 25th from 1:30pm - 3:00pm

To register for any of these events just click on the link to the Calendar and you will be automatically re-directed to the event calendar and can choose the webinar that you are interested in.

*Remember, registration closes the day before the presentation is scheduled to begin.

PATHS Training Calendar

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission still has fund remaining left in their COVID-19 Recovery Loan fund, just in case are any businesses that might need some assistance following a COVID-induced downturn in revenues.

The program features loans at 0% interest for the life of the loan (3-year term), with no payments due in the first six months. Loan proceeds can be used to pay for crucial operating expenses like staff payroll, rent, utilities, and inventory.



COVID-19 Recovery Loan Program

The outbreak of COVID-19 in the Spring of 2020 caused economic hardship for many small businesses in the Southwestern Pennsylvania region. In response, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission has established a COVID-19 Recovery Loan program, which is designed to help small businesses in SPC's service area recover from the downturn in revenues that those businesses experienced due to the outbreak.

Under this program, small businesses can apply for financing to help pay for current employee salaries, including salaries for those individuals who may have been furloughed due to the outbreak. Businesses can also use the loan proceeds to help pay for rent and utilities, as well as inventory purchases. SPC will consider proof of expenses in any of the three aforementioned categories from the three-month period prior to the onset of the crisis, and those expenses will count towards the loan amount.

Program Highlights

- 1. Maximum loan amount will be \$50,000 loaned to any one business at a time.
- The interest rate will be set at 0% for the first round of disbursements under this program. After the first round, the rate will be set at 4% below U.S. Treasury Rate.
- Principal and Interest payments will be deferred for the first six months, after which the program will carry a 36 month term.
- 4. The leveraged capital requirement is waived during the first round of disbursements under this program. After the initial round of disbursements, borrowers will be required to provide 50% matching financing/equity to be eligible for this loan program.
- The requirement to demonstrate that capital is not otherwise available is waived for the initial round of lending under this program. The requirement takes effect again after the initial round of lending is complete.

Eligibility Requirements

- Businesses must have experienced a downturn in business due to the COVID-19 crisis, with the onset of the crisis occurring after February 15, 2020.
- Business must be able to operate in some limited capacity following the crisis. Businesses that permanently shut their doors due to the crisis are ineligible.
- For the initial lending period, borrowers must return to at least 80% of their pre-crisis payroll
 within three years. This can be accomplished by either recalling furloughed employees, or by
 hiring new employees. For each subsequent lending period, businesses must retain at least one
 job for every \$35,000 borrowed. No job creation requirement.

SPC's COVID-19 Recovery Loan Program shall be secured via a blanket lien on all of the business's assets, in the highest lien position available.

Fees

A flat \$50 fee will be due at closing, via check made payable to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation, and the nominal legal fees associated with this program are the responsibility of the borrower.

For more information please contact:

Steve Meredith, Manager Business Finance Assistance (412) 391-5590 x325 smeredith@spcregion.org

Todd Stranko, Loan Analyst Business Finance Assistance (412) 391-5590 x350 tstranko@spcregion.org

PD100080 8/20

Top 5 Reasons Members Chose My Benefit Advisor for Employee Benefits in 2021

Schedule a Virtual Meeting with a Local Expert

Employers continued to face many new challenges throughout 2021 and the team at My Benefit Advisor is ready to understand your needs and help you find the plans and coverage you need. Below is a list of the top 5 reasons our members chose MBA in 2021.

If you are ready to learn more about My Benefit Advisor, set up a quick meeting with an expert who specializes in the type of coverage you need:

- Individuals & Families
- Employers with 1-9 Employees
- Employers with 10+ Employees

1. Online Enrollment & Employee Communication

MBA helps employers offer an online, mobile-friendly platform for employees to enroll in medical coverage. Our easy-to-use platform eliminates the need for face-to-face meetings, an important benefit as more employees work from home in the current environment.

2. Alternative Funding

Many employers face large increases at renewal and feel as if they have no viable options to lower costs. Decreasing benefits is not the only solution to lower costs.

- Self-Funded & Level-Funded Plans
- Health Savings Accounts (HSAs)
- Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRAs)
- Group Medical Captives

3. HR Support Services

My Benefit Advisor provides our clients with access to a comprehensive HR solution through our website. This offering features live support, training courses, and an online library to support the HR Department of small and mid-sized employers.

4. ICHRA & Individual Subsidies

An Individual Coverage HRA (ICHRA) may be a perfect solution for employers looking to contain benefit costs or groups who currently do not offer any coverage. ICHRAs allow employers to maintain coverage options as well as attract and retain employees

5. Benefit Service Center

The Benefits Service Center is a dedicated call center, available year-round, to answer the questions from employees and administrators about their employee benefits program. Below are some of the items our team can assist with.

- Claims Issues
- Benefit Questions
- ID Cards
- Prescription Issues
- Provider & Network Questions





An Innovative Alternative to Employee Layoffs - Pa's Shared-Work Program

Pennsylvania's Shared-Work program is a great tool that that allows an employer to temporarily reduce the work hours of a group of employees while supplementing their lost wages with partial unemployment benefits rather than laying off any employees. Employees covered by the Shared-Work plan receive a percentage of their unemployment compensation

(UC) weekly benefit amount while they work the reduced schedule, if they are otherwise eligible for UC.

Shared-Work plans empower employers to retain a trained and qualified workforce during periods of slowdown, and quickly ramp up operations without the expense of recruiting, hiring, and training new employees.

Since January 2020, more than 900 shared-work plans have been successfully put into action from employers across the commonwealth. With changing dynamics in the modern-day work place, Pennsylvania's Shared-Work program may help businesses in their continued success.

"As a small company that sells winter heating oil, the Shared-Work program allows us to share the work between employees during the slower, warmer months. The company benefits because it is simple to sign-up for, we save on wages and training costs, and it helps us keep our well-trained employees year after year.

"Our employees benefit by maintaining their jobs, pay, and benefits, and enjoy some additional time off during the summer. We are thankful that this program, which we've participated in since 2016, has allowed us to avoid annual employee layoffs."

Amy Purcell, President Robert E Reedy & Sons Inc

Who is included in the Shared-Work plan?

Employers select which employees will be included in the Shared-Work plan. A plan must apply to one "affected unit" which is defined as a department, shift, or other organizational unit. Employers may have more than one plan if there is more than one affected unit. For example, all employees working the night shift may be one unit. All employees in the affected unit must participate; however, an employee who has been employed in the affected unit for less than three months, or an employee who would work 40 or more hours a week under the plan may not participate. There must be at least two participating employees, determined without regard to corporate officers.

How much will the employees' hours be reduced under the Shared-Work program?

After identifying the affected unit(s), the employer selects the percentage by which the employees' hours are reduced, referred to as the "reduction percentage." The employer determines the reduction percentage based on business needs, but it must be at least 20 percent and cannot exceed 40 percent of the employees' normal weekly hours. The reduction percentage must be the same for all employees participating in the Shared-Work plan. For example, if an employee normally works 40 hours per week, and the reduction percentage is 20 percent, then the employee's hours are reduced by 20 percent and he or she would work 80 percent of 40 hours, or 32 hours per week. If an employee in the same unit works 30 hours per week, then he or she would work 80 percent of 30 hours, or 24 hours per week.

How are UC benefits determined under the plan?

For each week in the plan, an employee receives a percentage of his or her UC weekly benefit amount (WBA) equal to the reduction percentage. For example, if the employee's WBA is \$400 and the employee's hours are reduced by 20 percent under the plan, the employee would receive 20 percent of \$400 (or \$80) in Shared-Work UC benefits.

What qualifications are required for participation?

To participate in Pennsylvania's Shared-Work program, the employer must have filed all UC tax reports and paid all amounts due under PA UC Law, have a positive reserve account balance (for contributory employers) and have paid wages for the last 12 consecutive quarters, according to the department's Office of UC Tax Services.

For more information and to view FAQs, forms and the brochure, please visit www.uc.pa.gov/sharedwork.

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FDIC





Want To Volunteer But Don't Know How To Get Started?

RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program) of Greene County offers meaningful and rewarding volunteer opportunities for adults ages 55 & over.





Benefits of Volunteering:

- Mileage Reimbursements
 Opportunity to Meet New People
 Make a Difference in your Commit

RSVP volunteers may serve as:

- Financial Literacy Course Instructor Food Bank/Pantries Home Delivered Meals Drivers Store to Door Grocery Delivery Telephone Reassurance VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Tax Preparer



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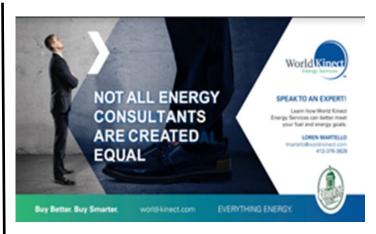


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www.microtelinn.com Lorinda Trovato, General Manager lorinda.t@millenniumhospitality.com





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Jennifer Ross

724-852-7209 jross@communitybank.tv



